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Cassis Calls for Congress to Act

Senate Resolution urges Federal government to allow state control over trash importation

LANSING—Today, Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) received bi-partisan support for her initiative urging the United States Congress to return to individual states the authority to restrict and prohibit foreign trash importation.

“Through this resolution, the state of Michigan has hopefully closed the lid on the garbage can,” said Cassis. “We are hopeful that the Federal government will now allow us, the citizens of the Great Lakes State, to remove the can from our curbside forever.”

While most in the Michigan legislature support the restriction of trash importation, mostly from Canada, the Michigan legislature is unable to enact legislation doing so due to the Commerce Clause in the U.S. Constitution. Such legislation can only be done at the federal level.

Cassis’ measure asks Congress to pass House Resolution 382, a bill authored by Congressman Mike Rogers (R-Brighton), which would give the states the necessary authority to regulate foreign trash importation.

In addition, Cassis’ resolution would urge the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure full compliance of the *Agreement Between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste*.

“There are many issues at stake here,” said Cassis. “I am concerned about the negative environmental impact on our beautiful state, and I am deeply bothered by the lack of local control we seem to have on this very serious issue.”

The resolution has been assigned to the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Sen. Cassis took the lead on the Canadian trash issue last spring as a State Representative when she introduced a similar resolution in the state House. She also initiated a door-to-door campaign to collect petitions signatures from citizens wanting to put an end to importing Canadian trash and sent them to leaders in Washington, D.C.

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